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harder to see than the companion to *Sirius*, and the measures, especially of distance, are subject to much larger probable error.

ZWIERS's ephemeris gives for *Sirius*:—

1901.25 133°.3 5''.07.

R. G. AITKEN.

May 8, 1901.

THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR ROWLAND.

The physical side of Astronomy suffered a great loss on April 16th, in the death of Professor HENRY A. ROWLAND, of Johns Hopkins University, in the fifty-third year of his age. Professor ROWLAND occupied the Chair of Physics from 1876, the date of the opening of the university, until the time of his death.

Professor ROWLAND'S contributions to our knowledge of heat, electricity, and light earned for him a place in the front rank of the physicists of the world. Astronomy is indebted to him mainly for the perfection of the diffraction-grating and for his studies on the grating spectrum of the Sun. His tables of wave-lengths in the solar spectrum are so generally in use that they may be said to form the basis of all accurate astronomical spectroscopy. His premature death has given rise to heartfelt expressions of regret from the entire scientific world.

W. W. C.

THE LICK OBSERVATORY BULLETIN.

Early in the present year the Lick Observatory began to issue a bulletin to supply a want long felt. Its purpose was to furnish a medium of publication insuring prompt distribution of important results, and likewise that it should be used for publishing long and technical articles unsuitable for journal publication, and which could not await publication in volume form.

It is not intended that the mailing-list shall include individuals except in the rare cases where investigators have not ready access to the *Bulletin* through institutions.

Bulletins Nos. 1 and No. 2 have been issued. They contain Professor TUCKER'S meridian-circle positions of the comparison-stars to be used as a basis for determining the solar parallax, from observations of the planet *Eros*. The total number of stars observed by Professor TUCKER is 677. The total number of observations required was slightly over 2,000, including circumpolars and nadirs.

The materials for a number of other Bulletins are at hand, and they will be issued in the near future. W. W. CAMPBELL.

VISUAL OBSERVATIONS OF *NOVA AURIGÆ.*

It is stated in the *Observatory* for March, 1901, (p. 127,) that ANDERSON'S new star of 1892 in *Auriga* "has not been seen for many years"; a statement perhaps implying, from its context, that *Nova Aurigæ* has been invisible.

This star was looked for by Mr. AITKEN and myself with the 36-inch refractor on the evening of April 4, 1901, and was found without difficulty, though the sky was hazy and strongly illumined by the full moon. The *Nova* was fainter by 0.2 magnitude than BURNHAM'S comparison-star I (chart in *Mon. Not.*, R. A. S. for April, 1892,) and considerably brighter than comparison-star J. Its magnitude was estimated to lie at one fourth the distance from that of I to that of J. That is, the *Nova* was estimated to be of the 12th magnitude on BURNHAM'S scale.

The same peculiarities of focus existed as in previous years; and no doubt the spectrum is still nebular. No opportunity was available for making direct spectroscopic observations.

My last previous observation was in August, 1898, when *Nova Aurigæ* was of the 11th magnitude.

The brightness of the *Nova* at its second discovery, in August, 1892, was 10.5 magnitude. W. W. CAMPBELL.

THE CROCKER ECLIPSE EXPEDITION TO SUMATRA.

The Crocker Eclipse Expedition from the Lick Observatory to Sumatra, in charge of Acting Astronomer C. D. PERRINE, arrived at Padang on April 5th, with the instruments and other freight in good condition. After a preliminary survey of the surrounding country, Professor PERRINE decided to locate the observing-station on the plains rather than in the mountains, as, from his own observations and from the experience of scientific residents of Padang, the cloud conditions were considered more favorable at the lower altitudes. The station was located just outside the northern edge of the city, on the abandoned racetrack. Preparations for mounting and adjusting the instruments were proceeded